Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

1. (Previously Presented) A method of training a quality assessment tool comprising the steps of

dividing a database comprising a plurality of samples, each with an associated mean opinion score, into a plurality of distortion sets of samples according to a dominant distortion present in each sample; and

training a distortion specific assessment handler for each distortion set, such that a fit between a distortion specific quality measure generated from

a distortion specific plurality of parameters for a sample and

the mean opinion score associated with said sample

is optimised.

2. (Original) A method according to claim 1, further comprising the steps of

training the quality assessment tool, such that a fit between a quality measure generated from

a non-distortion specific plurality of parameters together with a distortion specific quality measure for a sample, and

the mean opinion score associated with said sample, is optimised.

3. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 1 in which the samples represent speech transmitted over a telecommunications network, and in which the quality measure is representative of the quality of the speech perceived by an average user.

4. (Currently Amended) A method of assessing speech quality of a sample in a telecommunications network comprising the steps of

determining-identifying an identified dominant distortion type for the a-sample, the identified dominant distortion type being selected from a plurality of possible distortion types;

selecting a selected distortion specific assessment handler in dependence upon said identified dominant distortion type from a plurality of distortion specific assessment handlers, each of said plurality of distortion specific assessment handlers being associated with a respective one of said plurality of possible distortion types;

using a-the selected distortion specific assessment handler to combine a plurality of parameters specific to said identified dominant distortion type to provide a distortion specific quality measure for each-the sample; and

generating a quality measure in dependence upon the distortion specific quality measure.

5. (Original) A method according to claim 4 in which the generating step comprises the sub step of

combining a non-distortion specific plurality of parameters with said distortion specific quality measure to provide said quality measure.

6. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 4 in which the samples represent speech transmitted over a telecommunications network, and in which the quality measure is representative of the quality of the speech perceived by an average user.

7. (Previously Presented) A computer readable medium carrying a computer program for implementing the method according to claim 1.

8. (Cancelled)

9. (Currently Amended) An apparatus for assessing speech quality of a sample in a telecommunications network comprising

means for ~~determining~~ identifying an identified dominant distortion type for ~~a~~ the sample, the identified dominant distortion type being selected from a plurality of possible distortion types;

a plurality of distortion specific assessment handlers each of said plurality of distortion specific assessment handlers being associated with a respective one of said plurality of possible distortion types for combining a distortion specific plurality of parameters to provide a distortion specific quality measure for ~~each~~ the sample;

means for selecting a selected distortion specific assessment handler in dependence upon said identified dominant distortion type from said plurality of distortion specific assessment handlers; and

means for generating a quality measure in dependence upon the distortion specific quality measure.

10. (Original) An apparatus according to claim 9, in which

the generating means comprises means for combining a non-distortion specific plurality of parameters with said distortion specific quality measure to provide said quality measure.

11. (Previously Presented) An apparatus for training a quality assessment tool comprising

means for dividing a database comprising a plurality of samples, each with an associated mean opinion score, into a plurality of distortion sets of samples according to a dominant distortion present in each sample; and

means for training a distortion specific assessment handler for each distortion set, such that a fit between a distortion specific quality measure generated from

a distortion specific plurality of parameters for a sample and

the mean opinion score associated with said sample

is optimised.

12. (Original) An apparatus according to claim 11, further comprising

   means for training the quality assessment tool, such that a fit between a quality measure generated from

   a non-distortion specific plurality of parameters together with a distortion specific quality measure for a sample, and

   the mean opinion score associated with said sample,

is optimised.

13. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 2 in which the samples represent speech transmitted over a telecommunications network, and in which the quality measure is representative of the quality of the speech perceived by an average user.

14. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 5 in which the samples represent speech transmitted over a telecommunications network, and in which the quality measure is representative of the quality of the speech perceived by an average user.

15. (Previously Presented) A computer readable medium carrying a computer program for implementing the method according to claim 2.

16. (Previously Presented) A computer readable medium carrying a computer program for implementing the method according to claim 3.

17. (Previously Presented) A computer readable medium carrying a computer program for implementing the method according to claim 4.

Claims 18-20: (Cancelled)